

Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs to sponsor 17 special programs during the 2017 winter-holiday season

(DOVER, Del.—Nov. 17, 2017)—The Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs will be sponsoring 17 special events, including nine winter-holiday-themed activities, between Nov. 25, 2017 and Dec. 23, 2017. A full schedule is included below. Except where otherwise indicated, all programs are free and open to the public.



The John Dickinson Plantation will be offering four “Handmade for the Holidays” programs during the 2017 winter-holiday season.

Saturday, Nov. 25, 2017

“Handmade for the Holidays.” Seasonal program in which visitors can create a sachet with herbs and spices. [John](#)

[Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Program 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Museum open 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

Thursday, Nov. 30, 2017

“Hospitality Night–Victorian Yule-Tide Celebration.”

Holiday-themed program in which the museum will be decorated for the season by the [Sussex Gardeners](#) including luminarias lighting the entrance walkway. Activities will include historical interpreters, demonstrations, music and seasonal refreshments. Presented in partnership with the [Lewes Chamber of Commerce](#). [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. 5–8 p.m. 302-645-1148.

Friday, Dec. 1, 2017

Concert by the Honey Badgers. Folk music duo. Presented in partnership with the [Delaware Friends of Folk](#) and the [First State Heritage Park](#). [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. 7:30 p.m. 302-744-5054.

Saturday, Dec. 2, 2017

“Delaware’s State Constitution.” Guided tours explore the Delaware State Constitution of 1792 which changed the Delaware State to the State of Delaware. [First Saturday in the First State](#) program. [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5054.

Saturday, Dec. 2, 2017

2017 Holiday Open House at Woodburn: The Governor’s Residence. The home of Delaware’s governor will be decorated for the holidays and open for guided tours. 10 a.m.–2 p.m. [Woodburn: The Governor’s Residence](#), 151 Kings Highway S.W., Dover. 302-739-5656.



Woodburn: The
Governor's Residence

Saturday, Dec. 2, 2017

"Tour Zwaanendael Museum." Enjoy the museum's festive holiday-décor created by the [Sussex Gardeners](#). Event held in conjunction with the Lewes Historical Society's [Christmas Tour of Lewes](#). [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. 10 a.m.–4 p.m. 302-645-1148.

Saturday, Dec. 2, 2017

"Johnson Victrola Museum's 50th Anniversary Celebration: A Country Tale." Program, "Play That Old-Time Country Music," explores Victor Records' early recordings of country music, accompanied by 78-rpm records played on authentic Victor Talking Machines. Part of a [series celebrating](#) the museum's creation in 1967. [First Saturday in the First State](#) program. [Johnson Victrola Museum](#), 375 S. New St., Dover. Programs at 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. in the museum's 2nd floor gallery (entry via staircase; no elevator). Museum open 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Free admission but, due to space restrictions, reservations are required for the programs by calling 302-739-3262.



Displays in the
Johnson Victrola
Museum

Saturday, Dec. 2, 2017

"Handmade for the Holidays." Seasonal program in which visitors can design a tile for the holidays. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Program 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Museum open 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

Thursday and Friday, Dec. 7 and 8, 2017

"Fully, Freely and Entirely– Becoming the First State." Historical theater production based on Delaware Day, the date when Delaware became the first state to ratify the United States Constitution on Dec. 7, 1787. Sponsored by the [First State Heritage Park](#) and presented in the candlelit [Old State House](#). Ticket-holders will meet at the John Bell House, 43 The Green, Dover. 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. Admission \$10. Pre-registration is required and spaces are limited. 302-739-9194.

Saturday, Dec. 9, 2017

CANCELLED: "Fully, Freely and Entirely– Becoming the First State." Historical theater production based on Delaware Day, the date when Delaware became the first state to ratify the United States Constitution on Dec. 7, 1787. Sponsored by the [First State Heritage Park](#) and presented in the candlelit [Old](#)

[State House](#). Ticket-holders will meet at the John Bell House, 43 The Green, Dover. 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. Admission \$10. Pre-registration is required and spaces are limited. 302-739-9194. **NOTE: Due to inclement weather, these two performances have been cancelled.**



The Old State House

Saturday, Dec. 9, 2017

POSTPONED: Delaware Day awards ceremony. Event honors participants in the Delaware Department of State's 16th annual [Delaware Day Fourth Grade Competition](#) which challenges students to create displays that help illustrate and explain the U.S. Constitution and the role played by Delawareans in the writing and ratification of the nation's founding document. [Delaware Public Archives](#), 121 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Dover. 10 a.m. Free admission. 302-744-5000. **NOTE: Due to inclement weather, this event has been postponed. Rescheduled date TBA.**

Saturday, Dec. 9, 2017

CANCELLED: Buena Vista Holiday Open House. One-day-only event featuring self-guided tours of one of Delaware's most historic homes decorated for the holidays plus crafts and other activities for children and adults, refreshments and a book drive hosted by the University of Delaware Pi Beta Phi sorority. Guests are encouraged to bring books to benefit

local schools through Read>Lead>Achieve! [Buena Vista: A Delaware Country Estate](#), 661 S. Dupont Highway (Route 13), New Castle. 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Free admission. 302-323-4430. **NOTE: Due to inclement weather, this event has been cancelled.**



Buena Vista

Saturday, Dec. 9, 2017

[“Spirit of Christmas in New Castle.”](#) One of the best preserved Colonial-era towns in America will feature tours of historic homes bedecked in holiday decorations, activities at museums including the [New Castle Court House Museum](#), crafts, musical entertainment, caroling, shopping, tree lighting and more. Downtown New Castle. 9:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m. 302-328-3279.



Aerial view of the New Castle Green

Saturday, Dec. 9, 2017

Demonstrations by the Thistledown Fiber Arts Guild. Program explores spinning, weaving, knitting and other fabric arts. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Program 1–3 p.m. Museum open 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

Saturday, Dec. 9, 2017

CANCELLED: “A Dead Whale or a Stove Boat, Part Two.” Lecture by historic-site interpreter Andrew Lyter on the glory days of the American whaling industry (1783–1861). Part of “[Global to Local: International Events and the First State](#),” a series exploring how world events impacted Delaware’s history. [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. **Dec. 9, 2017 program cancelled and incorporated into March 24, 2018 program.**



Zwaanendael Museum

Thursday, Dec. 14, 2017

“Johnson Victrola Museum’s 50th Anniversary Celebration.” Activities include music, merriment and refreshments on the [50th anniversary](#) of the museum which opened to the public on Dec. 14, 1967. [Johnson Victrola Museum](#), 375 S. New St., Dover. Celebration from 1–3 p.m. Museum open 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3262.

Saturday, Dec. 16, 2017

“Handmade for the Holidays.” Seasonal program in which visitors can create a gift tag with paper quilling. [John](#)

[Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Program 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Museum open 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

Saturday, Dec. 23, 2017

“Handmade for the Holidays.” Seasonal program in which visitors can design a holiday card with stencils. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Program 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Museum open 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

Monday, Dec. 25, 2017

Christmas Day. All museums of the State of Delaware (the [John Dickinson Plantation](#), the [Johnson Victrola Museum](#), the [New Castle Court House Museum](#), [The Old State House](#) and the [Zwaanendael Museum](#)) will be closed. 302-744-5054.

Monday, Jan. 1, 2018

New Year’s Day. All museums of the State of Delaware (the [John Dickinson Plantation](#), the [Johnson Victrola Museum](#), the [New Castle Court House Museum](#), [The Old State House](#) and the [Zwaanendael Museum](#)) will be closed. 302-744-5054.

Exhibits and displays

In addition to special programming, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs is sponsoring the following exhibits and displays. Admission is free and open to the public:

Ongoing

“[Discovering Delaware’s Maritime Past](#).” Display explores the DeBraak, a shipwrecked 18th-century British warship, including a photo of the hull recovery, reproductions of items aboard ship and a model of the vessel. [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. Nov. 1–March 31: Wed.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. April 1–Oct. 31: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. 302-645-1148.

Ongoing

“[Drawing America to Victory: The Persuasive Power of the Arts in World War I](#).” Online exhibit revolves around 27 World War I posters from the collections of the State of

Delaware.

Ongoing

[“Five Stories.”](#) Display explores the varied lives of people who lived on the plantation including Dickinson family members, tenant farmers, tradesmen, free blacks, indentured servants and enslaved individuals. [John Dickinson Plantation Welcome Center](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Oct. 1–March 31: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. April 1–Sept. 30: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

Ongoing

[“Letters From a Farmer in Pennsylvania.”](#) Online exhibit explores the life of Founding Father John Dickinson on the 250th anniversary of the publication of his essays that described Colonial American grievances with the British government.

Ongoing

[“New Castle: Three Forts, One Community.”](#) Exhibit examines the 17th-century struggle for control of New Castle by the Dutch, Swedes and English, and the strongholds that they built to maintain their power. [New Castle Court House Museum](#), 211 Delaware St., New Castle. Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Sun., 1:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-323-4453.

Ongoing

[“The Old State House: A True Restoration 1976-2016.”](#) Display explores preservation work that has been conducted since Delaware’s first state capitol building was restored to its original appearance in 1976. From the collections of the State of Delaware. [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. Mon.–Sat., 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5054.

Ongoing

[“Rose Color to Gold to Glowing Red: Orville and Ethel Peets](#)

[in Paris 1913-1914.](#)” Exhibit featuring paintings and painting materials used by the noted Delaware artists Orville Houghton Peets and Ethel Canby Peets. [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. Nov. 1–March 31: Wed.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. April 1–Oct. 31: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. 302-645-1148.

Ongoing

[Sculpture by Charles Parks](#). Display of works by the noted Wilmington artist featuring historical and political figures including a Minute Man, and presidents Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford and George W. Bush. [New Castle Court House Museum](#), 211 Delaware St., New Castle. Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Sun., 1:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-323-4453.

Ongoing

[“A Seaborne Citizenry: The DeBraak and Its Atlantic World.”](#) Exhibit utilizes artifacts recovered from His Majesty’s Sloop of War DeBraak, a British warship that sank off the Delaware coast on May 25, 1798, to tell the story of the vessel, its crew and the historical context within which it operated in the Atlantic World of the late 18th century. [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. Nov. 1–March 31: Wed.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. April 1–Oct. 31: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. 302-645-1148.

Ongoing

[“Simple Machines.”](#) Exhibit demonstrating the six “simple machines”—incline ramp, screw, wedge, pulley, lever and wheel—that constitute the elementary building blocks of which many more-complicated machines are composed. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Oct. 1–March 31: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. April 1–Sept. 30: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

Administered by the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, the [five museums of the State of Delaware](#)—the John

Dickinson Plantation, the Johnson Victrola Museum, the New Castle Court House Museum, The Old State House and the Zwaanendael Museum—tell the story of the First State's contributions to the history and culture of the United States. Through tours, exhibits, school programs and hands-on activities, the museums shine a spotlight on Delaware's unique history and the diverse people who came to live there. The museums are [accredited by the American Alliance of Museums](#), the highest recognition afforded to museums in the United States. The New Castle Court House Museum and the John Dickinson Plantation are partner sites of the [First State National Historical Park](#). The Old State House is located on the Dover Green, another partner site of the park.

Go to the following for a [comprehensive, long-term calendar of division-sponsored events](#).



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